

## Tips for the First 10 Days

- Create a letter to introduce yourself to your students/parents
- Make sure all lesson plans are complete and all materials gathered.
- Be ready to work the FIRST DAY! Don't put off your assignments. Start NOW.
- Know what you want to teach and use different techniques to teach it. Remember all learners are not just visual or auditory!
- Over plan the first week, or until you know the amount of work your class can complete at a given time.
- Welcome your students as they enter the door. If they have name tags on already, call them by their name.
- Introduce yourself to your students by the name you want to be called.
- Set high expectations.
- Review Posted rules (Rules should be stated in a positive manner)
- Assign seats - You'll know soon enough if you've made an error!
- Use nametags. Call their names often.
- Do an assessment of your students' functioning - give a short pretest. This way you'll know where they are.
- Go over DAILY rituals & routines for lining up, going to the bathroom, going outside, etc.
- Make sure that you begin all lessons/transitions from a "point of order". You cannot give instructions to your class with only half the class listening. Choose your "point of order" technique: "Give me Five", "10 seconds of Quiet", Counting from 30, backwards, "if you can hear me, touch your head", holding up a red card, etc.
- Catch your students being good and SAY it to them!
- Make sure that you use LOTS of positive reinforcement for the kid that drives you the craziest!
- Let students know how to get what they want from you. Do they need to raise their hand? Can they get up to throw trash away without permission? When do they sharpen their pencil? How can they get you to help them at their seat?
- Dress appropriately and professionally. "You don't get a second chance at a first impression."
- Keep transitions short. Tell students what to do, how long they have to do it, role play someone doing what you want them to do.
- Begin each day/period the same way. Have something for your students to do as soon as they enter your room: An "early bird" question, a "first solution" to find.
- YOU release children, the bell does NOT.
- SMILE! You chose this career!
- Make sure your classroom is neat & clean.
- Use cues to let the class know what you want. This way they can SEE and LEARN from others. Ex. "I like the way that the blue table is sitting" or "John is preparing for the bell to ring just the way we discussed. John is -" (and explain what John does that you like)
- Establish duties/responsibilities for students